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LETTER DATED 21 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the communiqué issued by the Western European Union (WEU) on the occasion of the WEU Council of Ministers which took place in Rome on 19 May 1993.

I also transmit the text of a communiqué on the Meeting of the WEU Forum of consultation at the ministerial level, which was held in Rome on 20 May 1993.

I would be grateful if the two texts could be circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) Francesco Paolo FULCI
Ambassador

Annex I

[Original: English and French]

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(Rome, 19 May 1993)

Communiqué

1. The Western European Union (WEU) Council of Ministers today held its first regular meeting since the decisions taken in Rome on 20 November 1992 to enlarge WEU, and since the transfer of the WEU Council and secretariat to Brussels. In addition to the Foreign and Defence Ministers of the nine existing member States, Ministers of the future member State Greece, of the future associate member States Iceland, Norway and Turkey and of the observers Denmark and Ireland, participated in this meeting. Ministers welcomed the progress made over the last six months in strengthening the role of WEU and discussed what further steps could be taken. Ministers also held detailed exchanges on the situation in former Yugoslavia and on the contribution WEU was making to the search for a peaceful settlement.

WEU and the European security environment

2. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to develop the role of WEU as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance based on the Declarations agreed at Maastricht and Petersberg. Ministers took note with satisfaction of the progress achieved in this regard.

Ministers warmly welcomed the result of the Danish referendum the day before relating to the Treaty on European Union.

3. The severe crisis in former Yugoslavia powerfully demonstrates the need for international organizations in the security field to act closely together in order to channel the political will of their member States to seek effective means for conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-keeping. Given the enhanced role of the United Nations and the importance of developing cooperation within the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), WEU Ministers reaffirmed their preparedness to support, on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with WEU procedures, the effective implementation of conflict prevention and crisis management measures including peace-keeping activities of these organizations and cooperative efforts with other States. They stressed the need to maintain armed forces at a level of effectiveness to cope with the requirements of common defence and the tasks defined by the Petersberg Declaration of WEU.

Former Yugoslavia

4. Ministers held a detailed discussion on the extremely serious situation in former Yugoslavia and in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Condemning the continuing failure of the Bosnian Serbs to accept the Vance-Owen peace plan, and stressing that the referendum which took place last weekend in Bosnia and Herzegovina had no legal value and therefore its result was irrelevant, Ministers reiterated their full support for an early implementation of the Vance-Owen peace plan and for all the measures envisaged by the European Community and its member States and the international community to bring about a political solution to the ongoing conflict and to ensure the physical and political survival of the Muslim people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ministers, noting that no option, military or other, was excluded, agreed to keep up the pressure, in cooperation with the United States, the Russian Federation and the other interested parties, on Serbia and Montenegro and the Bosnian Serbs in order to make the latter accept the Vance-Owen peace plan and stop immediately their attacks and their policy of ethnic cleansing.

Ministers condemned the recent military attacks against Muslim civilians by Bosnian Croat forces and supported the European Community and its member States' stern warning to Croatia on possible reactions if their attitude was maintained. They expressed the hope that the Mostar meetings would bring hostilities to an end.

Ministers also recalled the Yugoslav authorities' earlier declarations on international monitors along the Serbian Montenegrin/Bosnian-Herzegovinian border, and expressed the view that President Milosevic's willingness to interrupt all assistance to the Bosnian Serbs with the exclusion of humanitarian aid should be put to the test, by providing evidence of his commitment.

5. Ministers mandated the Permanent Council:

- Following the WEU planning undertaken on the Sarajevo safe haven, which was submitted to the United Nations, to arrange for a study to be carried out on the establishment of different safe areas referred to in United Nations Security Council resolution 824 (1993), as well as Mostar and other possible areas;

- To examine the role that WEU might play in the context of the implementation of the Vance-Owen peace plan, in coordination with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

- To study the possibility for WEU to coordinate the rotation of the contingents deployed by its member States in the framework of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the possible participation of WEU member States in the protection of the above-mentioned safe areas under a mandate of the United Nations.

6. Ministers agreed that the strengthening of United Nations sanctions through strict implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and in particular resolution 820 (1993) should continue to be one of the responses of the international community to Bosnian Serb intransigence. Ministers highlighted the two contributions which WEU was making in this respect:

- Since July 1992, WEU ships and aircraft have been conducting, first, embargo monitoring; and subsequently, embargo enforcement operations

in the Adriatic in close coordination with NATO. With the adoption of Security Council resolution 820 (1993), WEU and NATO discussed ways of increasing the effectiveness of these embargo enforcement operations;

- The offer made at their meeting in Luxembourg on 5 April to assist the efforts of Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania in implementing the embargo on the Danube in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions was now being put into effect. Ministers expressed their appreciation for the cooperation shown by the Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania in establishing this joint initiative, of a civilian character, which would be conducted in close coordination with the efforts of other organizations notably the European Community and CSCE and in liaison with the Sanctions Assistance Missions in the area. They welcomed the agreement of the riparian States to the deployment of advance teams, now in place, in order to prepare the rapid implementation of the initiative. Ministers expressed their appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Presidency and agreed that Italy would assure coordination on the ground.

Relations with other countries

7. Ministers looked forward to their meeting the following day with their colleagues from the partner countries of Central Europe in the Forum of Consultation in order to intensify dialogue, consultation and cooperation and to discuss security issues of common concern.

8. Ministers agreed on the importance for WEU, as its role is strengthened, to develop its relations with other countries.

They welcomed the accession negotiations between the European Community and certain European Free Trade Association countries and were prepared, should the countries concerned so wish, to establish in the interim period prior to accession appropriate contacts with Austria, Finland and Sweden for information on the role of WEU in this context.

Ministers, stressing the importance of stability and security in the Mediterranean basin to WEU member States, agreed to develop further the dialogue initiated with Maghreb countries.

Given the increased importance of WEU's role, Ministers also requested the Presidency and Secretariat to continue to ensure information was given on WEU's activities to other interested countries.

Strengthening WEU's role

9. Ministers welcomed the fruitful working links which had been established in Brussels between the Defence Representatives Group, the Military Delegates and the Planning Cell. This had enabled the Planning Cell to start work on a firm foundation, and had also led to the establishment of principles for the organization and functioning of WEU in times of crisis. They also welcomed the valuable contribution made by the WEU Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) at their meeting in Rome on 22 April 1993, the first such meeting to be attended by future

members and associate members of WEU. On the basis of earlier studies and following the recommendations of the CHODs, Ministers agreed that the Planning Cell should advance studies with a view to enhancing European air-maritime cooperation - as a follow-up to the Franco/Italian/Spanish proposal - and develop those relating to capabilities for strategic mobility.

10. The WEU Council of Ministers took note of the report of the Defence Representatives Group and mandated the Permanent Council to reach timely conclusions and to present a progress report to the next ministerial meeting on the forces answerable to WEU, in particular for the conduct of humanitarian and peace-keeping operations. Ministers noted with satisfaction that all member States were now proceeding to designate which of their military units and headquarters they were prepared to make available to WEU for various possible tasks. These should include rapidly deployable air, naval and ground forces and headquarters from which WEU operations could be commanded.

11. Ministers welcomed the following declaration by the French, German and Belgian Ministers on the European Corps:

> "The States participating in the European Corps recall the terms of the Franco-German Memorandum of 30 November 1992, of which the Council has taken note, to the effect that they consider that the European Corps forms part of units designated as 'forces answerable to WEU'."

12. Ministers also welcomed a statement by Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany that the units they are prepared to make available for military tasks under WEU auspices will include the following multinational formations as part of the "forces answerable to WEU":

- the Multinational Division (Central), consisting of Belgian, British, Dutch and German units;

- the United Kingdom/Netherlands amphibious force.

13. Ministers requested the Permanent Council to arrange discussions at the earliest with representatives of the nations participating in these offers in order to define the relations between WEU and these multinational formations as "forces answerable to WEU".

Ministers agreed that the competent forums of WEU should develop a number of general rules and procedural guidelines applicable to all forces answerable to WEU.

14. Ministers welcomed the progress which had been made in setting up the WEU Satellite Centre. In particular they noted with satisfaction the signature on 1 December 1992 of the Agreement between Spain and WEU regarding the concession of the site and the building in Torrejón, the delivery of the initial equipment, the signature of the HELIOS Memorandum of Understanding and the official inauguration on 28 April 1993. Ministers also noted that phase 2 of the main system feasibility study into an autonomous European space-based observation capability had now been launched, and looked forward to receiving an evaluation of the costed options following the conclusion of the study at the end of 1993.

15. Ministers reaffirmed the importance of WEU's activities with regard to the implementation of arms control and disarmament agreements, in particular the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) and Open Skies Treaties. On WEU cooperation on Open Skies, Ministers noted the preliminary set of rules for the operation of a pool of observation systems, prepared by the working group, which aimed at making the most cost-effective use of national resources. They agreed that an approach should be made to third parties with a view to assessing their interest in participating in the pool. Ministers underlined the need for continued cooperation between member States on the verification of the CFE Treaty.

16. Ministers agreed to the transfer from EUROGROUP to WEU of its publicity activities and the functions of EUROCOM. They noted that discussions were continuing on the transfer of the functions of EUROLOG and EUROLONGTERM.

Armaments cooperation

17. The Defence Ministers of the 13 nations of the former Independent European Programme Group (IEPG) met this morning for the first time since the IEPG functions were transferred to WEU. They reaffirmed the six key principles on which cooperation on armaments matters should be based and in particular that all decisions on these matters within the WEU framework should be taken by the 13 nations. They agreed on a number of organizational aspects of the transfer, which were subsequently adopted formally by the Council at 13.

18. Defence Ministers will meet at least once a year, before a WEU Council meeting, to oversee the activities of the armaments cooperation forum, which will henceforth be known as the Western European Armaments Group (WEAG). The chairmanship will continue to rotate among the 13 nations. The meetings of the National Armaments Directors (NADs), who will continue to report to Defence Ministers, will remain the operational core of WEAG. Ministers agreed to relocate to Brussels the functions of the Permanent Secretariat of the former IEPG. Ministers agreed to build on the links between the former IEPG and NATO by applying to armaments cooperation within the WEU framework the practical measures agreed in Petersberg for developing relations between WEU and NATO. Ministers noted the decision by NADs to task a study group to examine the possible role of a European armaments agency.

Annex II

[Original: English and French]

MEETING OF THE WEU FORUM OF CONSULTATION
AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL

(Rome, 20 May 1993)

Communiqué

1. Foreign and Defence Ministers of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia met in Rome on 20 May 1993 with the WEU Council of Ministers. Following the decisions taken at their meeting in Rome on 20 November 1992, in addition to the Foreign and Defence Ministers of the nine existing WEU member States, Ministers of the future member State Greece, of the future associate member States Iceland, Norway and Turkey and of the observers Denmark and Ireland participated in this meeting. This was the first ministerial meeting since the adoption in Bonn on 19 June 1992 of measures to strengthen the relations and structure the dialogue, consultation and cooperation between WEU and the States of Central Europe.

2. Recognizing the importance of their exchanges of views, the Ministers of WEU countries and those of WEU's Consultation Partners of Central Europe agreed henceforth to extend the term "WEU Forum of Consultation" to their annual meetings, a term already applied to the meetings at the ambassadorial level which take place at least twice a year.

3. Particular emphasis in the discussions was placed on the situation in former Yugoslavia. Ministers condemned the continuing failure of the Bosnian Serb authorities to accept the Vance-Owen peace plan and welcomed that part of the communiqué of the WEU Ministerial Council agreed the day before concerning former Yugoslavia. In their discussions Ministers reviewed WEU's contributions to the efforts of the whole international community to bring peace to this region.

4. WEU Ministers informed their Consultation Partners of the WEU operation to enforce the embargo in the Adriatic undertaken in close coordination with NATO.

Ministers welcomed the WEU initiative on the Danube to assist and cooperate with Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, in the strict implementation of the sanctions provided for in Security Council resolutions 820 (1993), 787 (1992), 757 (1992) and 713 (1991). They welcomed the signature of three Memoranda of Understanding in Rome to this effect.

Ministers stressed that the Danube mission, which was of a civilian character, represented a concrete example of cooperation between WEU and certain of its Consultation Partners. They reaffirmed the importance of that cooperation and their resolve to continue their joint efforts, thus contributing to the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis. Moreover, Ministers underlined the importance of containing the current conflict and agreed that, were any country to suffer from aggressive action as a consequence of their

support for United Nations-mandated operations, this would be a matter of direct concern to the international community.

5. Ministers held a detailed discussion on the development of relations between WEU and its Consultation Partners and on the current European security environment and its challenges. They reaffirmed the importance of intensifying these relations as a valuable contribution to the emergence of a more stable and peaceful order in Europe based on partnership and cooperation.

6. Concerning the early, orderly and complete withdrawal of foreign troops from the territories of the Baltic States in full accordance with international law, Ministers reaffirmed their support for the full and unconditional implementation of the relevant provisions of the Helsinki Summit Document of 1992 and the conclusions of the CSCE Stockholm Council.

7. Ministers recognized the important role accorded to WEU by the decisions taken in Maastricht and at Petersberg and welcomed the decisions taken at Rome in November 1992 to enlarge WEU. Ministers agreed that the political dialogue within the Forum of Consultation should contribute towards gaining a clearer perception of the role of WEU in the development of the security and defence policy of the future European Union and should provide a framework in which security and defence issues of common concern could be discussed so as to be able to take account of each others' views in wider fora without duplicating the cooperation in the Atlantic framework. The development of WEU's relations with its Consultation Partners would continue to reflect increasingly close relations between the countries of Central Europe and the future European Union and its member States with the aim of extending the area of stability and security in Europe.

8. Ministers welcomed the gradual development of WEU's operational capabilities, including the establishment of the Planning Cell, and agreed to explore and promote the possibilities for cooperation between WEU and its Consultation Partners, in particular in the fields of conflict prevention, crisis management, peace-keeping and the implementation of the CFE and Open Skies treaties.

In particular, Ministers stressed the value of an exchange of views on peace-keeping. While taking care to avoid any duplication, this might be the subject of a seminar at which experiences of peace-keeping in practical terms could be compared.

9. Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the growing dialogue in the Forum of Consultation thanks to the meetings which had taken place at the ambassadorial level in London on 14 October 1992 and in Brussels on 20 April 1993. They encouraged their representatives in Brussels to enhance the regular exchanges of documents and information on matters of common concern in the security and defence field. To facilitate this, Ministers agreed on the setting up of a Counsellors Group in Brussels composed of senior representatives in the delegations of the WEU countries and the Embassy Counsellors of the Consultation Partners. This Group, which would meet at least three or four times a year, would hold more detailed exchanges of view and prepare the meetings of the Forum of Consultation.

10. Ministers welcomed the close cooperation developing between the WEU Institute and the corresponding bodies in WEU's Central European partner countries. In particular they expressed their appreciation for the Institute's programme of scholarships for young researchers from Central Europe and agreed that the programme should be gradually enlarged over the next three years.

11. They further welcomed the increased contacts between the WEU Assembly and the parliaments of the Consultation Partners.